(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Barring Convicted persons from Contesting Elections

*280. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:
SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to debar politicians-convicted either by a lower Court or High Court or Supreme Court-from contesting elections to the Assembly and Parliamentary seats;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and whether his Ministry will consider this proposal to debar convicted persons from contesting elections, at the earliest; and

(c) whether Government would consider amending the rules to make it difficult for the convicted persons from contesting elections in the near future ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) Politicians, as such, have not been given any special treatment *vis-a-vis* common man so far as the issue of disqualification on conviction for offences is concerned. The Representation of the People Act, 1951, section 8 thereof, already contains provisions for disqualifying a person on conviction for certain offences. Government is, however, committed to further strengthen the provisions, as part of its overall agenda on reform of electoral laws, so as to check entry of corrupt and criminal elements in the electoral politics. Amendment in electoral laws is, however, a serious and contentious subject and, therefore, considerable time and attention are being given to it. It is therefore, not possible to give any time frame in this regard.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Complaint against the Employees of ATC

†1979. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.